



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 17.11.2020  
C(2020) 8051 final*

*Mr Ion-Marcel CIOLACU  
President of the Camera Deputaților  
Palace of the Parliament  
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5  
RO – 050563 BUCHAREST*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy for 2020 {COM(2019) 650 final}, adopted by the Commission in December 2019.*

*The Commission appreciates that the Camera Deputaților decided to analyse this Strategy and welcomes the overall support to its approach and priorities set out in the Strategy. In the meantime, the COVID-19 pandemic has given rise to the worst economic recession since the second World War not only in Europe but also in the rest of the world. The effects of the pandemic and the European response to it is at the centre of the new Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021 adopted by the Commission on 17 September 2020<sup>1</sup>.*

*The European response has been an unprecedented financial package of EUR 750 billion whose main pillar is the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which is a frontloaded financial support consisting of a combination of non-repayable support and loans up to EUR 672.5 billion. This is a historical mobilisation of resources, which shows that Europe is able to react quickly and united in the most difficult moments and that solidarity among Europeans is prominent in this response.*

*The Facility does not mark a departure from the pre COVID-19 agenda. On the contrary, it is rather intended to accelerating the opportunities identified before the outbreak of the pandemic, some of which are outlined in Camera Deputaților's Opinion. The recovery and resilience plans that Member States will submit to benefit from financial support from the Facility will be very much centred on the acceleration of the green and digital transitions. At least 37% of the total resources of the Facility will have to be devoted to address the climate objective while at least 20% should be devoted to digital. While the situation of each Member State is different, there are some common challenges to all*

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2020) 575 final

*Member States that call for coordinated reforms and investments to support both transitions. This is why the Commission has encouraged Member States to pursue the so-called seven flagships in their plans, which are key dimensions of the green and digital transitions.*

*The Camera Deputatilor rightly points to the importance of economic, social and territorial cohesion and ensuring the convergence of less developed regions. Let us recall that the financial resources devoted to the European cohesion policy have been reinforced under both the Next Generation EU and the new Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2021-2027. Moreover, the Facility channels more financial resources per head to the less developed Member States, and the contribution to enhancing economic, social and territorial cohesion is among the criteria against which the recovery and resilience plans will be assessed by the Commission. The Commission fully shares that the transition towards a new economic model needs to be fair for all to prevent growing inequalities and should ensure support to all parts of the society. This is at the top of its priorities.*

*Finally, it is important to recall that boosting the absorption capacities of EU funds will be crucial for the successful implementation of the plans and full achievement of the objectives of our Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy. This is why addressing the relevant country-specific recommendations in this area should have a prominent place in the recovery and resilience plans. It relates to good governance, effective institutions, independent and effective justice systems, efficient tax systems, quality of public administrations, robust anti-corruption systems or an efficient delivery of public procurement.*

*The Commission believes that the political dialogue with National Parliaments is essential for linking the Institutions and the citizens of the European Union, and looks forward to continuing it with the Camera Deputatilor in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Valdis Dombrovskis  
Executive Vice-President*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*